

# 2003 SESSION UPDATE

## 31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



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Dear Neighbors:

Greetings from Olympia! The 2003 session is now in high gear, and the Legislature is on a fast track pursuing solutions to the challenges facing our state. There is significant work ahead of us – with important issues that will affect you and your family. We are honored to represent you in our Legislature, and committed to being a part of the solution and working cooperatively with our colleagues to adopt policies that provide results for Washington citizens. Our focus is on creating jobs and restoring the public's trust in state government.

Everything we do during the 2003 session, from building our state's budgets, to considering education issues and working on our transportation crisis, must have a common goal of **bringing more jobs to Washington's working families and helping to restore the people's trust in government.**

Included in this newsletter is a brief survey so that you may let us know what you think about the issues important to you and your family. As always, we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dan Roach

Rep. Jan Shabro



**Rep. Jan Shabro**

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## Building state budgets – no longer business as usual

Like many states, Washington is dealing with a significant budget shortfall. The Legislature is facing many difficult decisions in the coming months, but we believe this will also provide us with the opportunity to make positive changes.

Our budget situation is the product of overspending in a declining economy – two factors that were largely ignored a year ago when the spending plan was adopted. The 2002 state operating budget authorized the expenditure of \$1.4 billion more than revenue coming in. It was irresponsible and unsustainable, and now we're paying the price.

The Legislature cannot close this enormous budget deficit without affecting some people who depend on government services. A business-as-usual approach to building our state's budgets didn't work then and it won't work now. We must look at the available revenue and build a budget that will deliver the results that matter most to the citizens of Washington.

We believe it is both possible and essential that the Legislature balance the budget without raising taxes. State government is facing challenges, but so are families and employers throughout our state. It's important that government does the same thing Washington families do during difficult times and start living within its means.

## Join us for a Town Hall Meeting!

### Saturday, March 22

**9:30-10:30am**

**Auburn City Hall - 25 W. Main St.**

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**1:00-2:00pm**

**Bonney Lake Senior Center**

**Next door to Bonney Lake City Hall**

**19306 Bonney Lake Blvd.**

•

**2:30-3:30pm**

**Enumclaw Public Library**

**1700 First Street**

## Let those who drink the water choose

Whether you don't want more chemicals added to your water, or you simply want to protect your right to say what goes in your water, new legislation we introduced gives you a voice. It would ensure that public water system customers, or the locally elected governing body of a public water system, make the final decision about whether fluoride is added to their drinking water.

When public agencies create new policies and attempt to enforce them like laws—without the say of Washingtonians who would be directly impacted—we must pull back and review what's in the best interest of our local communities; in this case, everyone in the 31st District, including south King County and northeast Pierce County.

When the Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company surveyed its customers last summer about choice and their public water supply, an overwhelming majority, 91 percent, said they want to be the final say on what goes in their water. We're listening to concerns from people throughout our community and are doing something about this issue. Please let us know your thoughts.

## K-12 Education

Providing every student with a quality education is a priority for the 31st District legislative team; it's the key to their success. We are very concerned that the governor's budget proposal simply won't get the job done. His budget plan includes drastic cuts to Educational Service District funding and raises the levy lid. In addition, it would reduce levy equalization funding. These proposals are particularly disastrous for smaller rural schools.

We are also troubled by the fact that it would permit a simple majority of voters to pass local school levies. Again, this would hurt rural areas and smaller communities that may not be able to afford the same level of levy funding as larger districts.

As budget talks heat up in the coming months, we are committed to driving as much funding as possible where it is needed most – to the classroom. We will continue to focus our efforts on providing a solid basic education foundation for Washington students.



# 31st DISTRICT SURVEY

**What's most important to your family? Please complete the enclosed survey and return to us.**

## Priorities

Rank these issues from 1 to 10 according to their importance to you, with 1 being most important:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Crime and security
- \_\_\_\_\_ Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Growth management and land use
- \_\_\_\_\_ Health care
- \_\_\_\_\_ Property taxes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Water supplies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_



## Budget & spending

The state is facing a \$2.4 billion deficit simply to continue the services we are currently providing. How should the Legislature deal with the deficit?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cut public services, don't raise taxes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Raise taxes, don't cut public services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rely mostly on cuts with modest tax increases
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rely mostly on tax increases with modest cuts in services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer that some or all of the budget deficit be made up through cuts, which areas of the budget do you believe should receive cuts?

- \_\_\_\_\_ K-12 education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Higher education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Health care
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental regulation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Corrections & prisons
- \_\_\_\_\_ Law enforcement
- \_\_\_\_\_ All of the above
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Education

In 2000, voters approved Initiative 732, to give teachers and K-12 employees automatic cost-of-living increases, and Initiative 728, increasing funding for class-size reduction. At the time, the supporters wrote in the voters' pamphlet that we could afford these measures without tax increases or cuts to other services. But that has been proven false. Given the budget deficit we now face, what best describes your opinion about these initiatives?

- \_\_\_\_\_ The voters have spoken and these initiatives should be fully funded, even if it means tax increases or cutting services for other citizens.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Funding for these initiative should be postponed until the budget deficit is brought under control.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We should continue funding one of them but not the other. Which initiative do you continue to support?
- \_\_\_\_\_ These initiatives should go back on the ballot to see if voters still support funding them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Transportation

A plan offered by House Republicans is designed to help win back the public trust. Called "Five-for-Five," it marks a new approach for improving transportation in Washington by changing the rules in governing, bringing real accountability and efficiency to the Department of Transportation, and most importantly, focusing on results to get our state moving again.

In this proposal, meaningful reforms must be implemented first, before any increase in the gas tax. Specifically, a series of five reform measures are each linked to a one-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase. A sixth bill would trigger the increase when the reforms are signed into law.

If all the reforms are adopted, our state will have an additional \$2.5 billion to invest in transportation improvements over the next 10 years. The money raised would be spent more efficiently and road-building projects would be done quicker and at lower cost. More importantly, it will help us build trust with the citizens by showing them government is serious about improving the way it does business.

What best describes your opinion of this measure?

- \_\_\_\_\_ I want to see efficiencies first, then I'd be open to raising taxes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ No new taxes. Let's be more efficient and make do with the money we have.

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Please  
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**Representatives**  
**Dan Roach**  
**Jan Shabro**

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**Comments:**

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**Would you like more information?**

If you would like periodic updates on issues that you've indicated are important to you, please provide information below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and/or E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



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